



CREATIVE WRITING “TELEPHONE”

This interactive activity is inspired by the old game of telephone, in which a sentence is whispered into one person's ear and the next person's, until the words that come out at the end are very unlike the original words. In this activity, the theory behind the game will be applied to written material instead of oral.

Directions: The first student will write a short letter based on some general guidelines. That student then passes the letter to student #2, who will read it only once (very important!), turn it over, and on a separate sheet of paper, and write a letter as much like the original as they can. This continues down the line until five students have been involved in the process.

Procedure:

Divide the class into groups of five students. Make sure each student has a piece of paper and a writing utensil.

The student writing the original letter in each group picks a theme from a bowl or cup.

List of Themes:

- ✓ Fan letter to a sports hero, rock star, or movie star
- ✓ Letter written by a kid in summer camp to their parents
- ✓ Note from a teacher to the parents of a kid who's doing badly in school
- ✓ Letter to the editor on a community issue
- ✓ A chain letter threatening to cause bad luck if it's not passed on
- ✓ A sales letter offering a great deal on cable TV

1. After the first student in each group pens their original letter, they should write the number 1 on the back of the letter, and pass the letter to the next student. Student #2 can read that letter only once, turn it over, and then copy the letter from memory on a separate sheet of paper. When finished, student #2 should turn the letter over, and write the number 2 on it, paper clip their letter on TOP of letter #1, and pass it on. The process should be repeated until the letter gets to the last student in the group.
2. Collect each packet of letters, choosing students to read the first and last letter in each letter collection, so kids can compare. Briefly discuss the importance of reading carefully, and conveying information accurately. Why is it important to read carefully? Compare the first letters to the last letters. What kind of wrong information would the recipient of the fifth letter have gotten? Why is this important?